

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, July 3, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Halifax. July 3rd, (1887) My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec says he wants to write to you very much, but it is so hot and he is so tired and "headachey", "won't I please write instead?"

I know my letters are not the same thing to you as Alec's, but they are I trust better than nothing, especially when they tell you that he, as well as the rest of us is well and happy. We all enjoyed the voyage immensely, the water was so smooth no one was really sick and the other passengers nearly all very pleasant, so that if it had not been for the thought of you all we should have been very sorry when it ended. I know the children were, for they found a nice little boy to play with and were very sorry to part with him. Here it is very hot, quite as hot as Washington and we are all very anxious to reach our land of promise, but every one says such weather as this is very exceptional here. At all events here we must remain for some days purchasing our supplies for the summer, from carriage and horses to frying pan and gridiron, which last article I found it absolutely impossible to get at Baddeck last summer.

Mr. Bell will surely remember pretty Mrs. Goldsmith whom we met on the "Hanoverian". Her parents live here and have always been very friendly to us. Today we took afternoon tea with them and found the whole family delightful. Mrs. MacLean is a 2 pretty woman, reminding us strongly of Mrs. David Bell and the daughters are sweet-looking, attractive young girls. The home was so intensely English and un-American. For instance the grounds were shut off from the road by a high brick wall making them entirely private, only a tiny bit of lawn at the front door being visible. Inside the wall there is a large homely garden planted with dear unfashionable homely flowers that I remember from my

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childhood, greenhouses and rockery, lawn tennis ground etc. The sea is not far distant, but another high wall shuts it quite out so there the garden lay an exemplification of the English idea "Every man's home is his castle."

Aboard the steamer we found a bevy of six or seven young ladies all going on a tour through Europe together chaperoned by an old lady of Baltimore. They were very gay and high-spirited, but we thought if anyone could keep them in order it was their chaperon, she is such a dignified energetic old lady of the old school, "g rande d ame " from her exquisite snow-white curls covered with delicate rich lace to the silver buckles on her French high-heeled shoes.

I wonder how you all are now. I hope you continue to gain health and strength at Colonial Beach and that it is not hot there.

Please let us know what you hear from Mr. and Mrs. Symonds. Please tell them that we are expecting them at Baddeck.

With much love to you and Mr. Bell and all who are with you.

Your affectionate daughter, Mabel.